**27 Questions to Know before making My First Reconciliation**

1. **Why did God make us?** God is love, and He made us to live in his love and love one another...To know, love and serve HIM.
2. **What is a Sacrament and how many are there?** A Sacrament is: an outward sign, instituted by Christ that gives grace. There are seven sacraments.
3. **List the seven sacraments.** Baptism, Confirmation, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick.
4. **What is Original Sin?**  The first sin committed when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. We are all born with Original Sin on our souls.
5. **What are the effects of Original Sin?**  The loss of God’s life (grace) in one’s soul; Were driven from the garden; Could not go to heaven; Brought spiritual death to descendants (us).
6. **What are the effects of Baptism?**  Gives hope of Eternal Life; Receive God’s life (grace) in our souls; Can go to Heaven; Welcomed into the Church.
7. **What is concupiscence?** The wound of Original Sin that makes us weak and likely to fall into sin.
8. **What is sin?**  Disobedience to God’s Law. Sin turns us away from God.
9. **What are the two kinds of personal sin?** Mortal Sin: Deadly sin, cuts off our friendship with God. For a sin to be mortal, 3 things are required: 1. It must be a SERIOUS Sin. 2. You must KNOW that the sin is serious. 3. You must CHOOSE to do it anyway. \*\*\*Must go to Confession\*\*
10. **How did we get the 10 Commandments?**  Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. On the way there, God called Moses up a high mountain called Mount Sinai where He revealed His law to Moses. While up on the mountain, God made a covenant, a very special, unbreakable bond between Himself and the Israelites. He promised to care for the Israelites and give them a special land to live in and the people promised to love God and to keep His commandments. The commandments teach us how we should treat God and others.
11. **List the 10 Commandments.** 1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have other gods besides me. 2. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain. 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day. 4. Honor your Father and your Mother. 5. You shall not kill. 6. You shall not commit adultery. 7. You shall not steal. 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. 10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.
12. **What are the two Greatest Commandments?** 1. You shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, mind, soul and strength. 2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
13. **What is the Sacrament of Penance?**  In this sacrament we confess to a priest the sins that we have committed and we are forgiven by the power of Jesus Christ. Grace is restored in our souls and we are given a penance to make up for the wrongs we have done.
14. **How did priests receive the power to forgive sins?**  After the Resurrection, Jesus revealed himself to his Apostles and said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” He breathed the Holy Spirit on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20: 21-23). Jesus made the Apostles his first Priests and gave them the power to forgive sins. God forgives sins through them, as the priests act in the person of Jesus.
15. **List the 5 Steps to make a good confession.** 1. Know my sins. 2. Be sorry for my sins. 3. Make up my mind not to sin again. 4. Tell my sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Penance. 5. Do the penance the priest gives.
16. **What is absolution?** The words a priest must say for our sins to be forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance. “I absolve you from your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
17. **What are the effects of a good confession?** With a good confession, my sins will be forgiven, and I will receive grace into my soul and strength to be a good Christian.
18. **What is Perfect and Imperfect Contrition?**  Perfect Contrition:

Our love for God; When you really love God so much that you would not want to offend HIM. When you are sorry for your sins because you are really, really sad that you have offended God. Imperfect Contrition: When you are sorry for your sins because you fear God’s just punishments.

1. **What is Penance?**  Penance is a prayer, offering, work of mercy, service to neighbor, act of self denial, sacrifice, work of charity, or acceptance of our cross. After we tell our sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Penance, he will give us a penance to do when we leave the confessional. It helps us to become like Jesus, and to make up for our sins.
2. **What is the Seal of Confession?**  The priest may never ever tell anyone anything he hears in the confessional.
3. **What does it mean to be in the state of grace?**  To be in the state of grace means to be without the mortal (deadly) stain of sin on our souls. When we are in the state of grace we are in good relationship with God.
4. **What kind of sacrament is the Sacrament of Penance?**  Healing.
5. **May I receive our Lord in Holy Communion if I am in mortal sin?** NO! I must first confess my sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Penance before I receive Jesus in Holy Communion.
6. **What are the 7 steps in the Rite of Penance?**  1. Priest welcomes you 2. Sign of the Cross 3. “Bless me Father, I have sinned. It has been (how long) since my last confession or (This is my first confession) 4. These are my sins ”\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” 5. Priest gives Penance 6. Pray the Act of Contrition and Receive Absolution 7. Dismissal: Your sins are forgiven, Go in Peace.
7. **Recite the Act of Contrition.** O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.
8. **Who is the minister of the Sacrament of Penance?**  A Priest or Bishop.
9. **How often should I receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?** Church law says that we should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year during the Lent or Easter season if we have committed mortal (serious) sin. But this is minimum. We should want to go to Confession much more often because we will experience God’s love, healing and forgiveness in a powerful way. Going to confession 2 times a month is a good habit to get into!! BE NOT AFRAID.